CLAIMS:

1.   A method for viewing changes to a shared document in one object comprising the steps of:

        opening said shared document by a first particular user;

        viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said original version of said shared document;

        selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and a second particular user; and

        viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared document with highlighted changes in one object, wherein said highlighted changes indicate changes made by one of said first and said second particular user with respect to said original version of said shared document.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

        entering a user identification associated with said first particular user; and

        determining whether said first particular user has permission to open said shared document based on said user identification associated with said first particular user.

3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein upon selecting said particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu is displayed with a list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said first or said second particular user.

4.   The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the step of:

        selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

        editing said original version of said shared document.

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1   6.   The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising the step of:

2   determining whether said first particular user has an on-screen symbol

3   associated with said first particular user indicating that said first particular user has

4   edited said shared document.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 6, wherein if there is no on-screen symbol

2   associated with said first particular user then the method further comprises the step

3   of:

4   creating an on-screen symbol associated with said first particular user.

1   8.   The method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the step of:

2   saving changes made to said original version of said shared document in a

3   particular file associated with said first particular user.

1   9.   The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising the step of:

2   saving changes made to said original version of said shared document in a

3   particular file associated with said first particular user.

1   10.   The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

2   editing said selected version of said shared document.

1   11.   The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising the step of:

2   determining whether said first particular user has an on-screen symbol

3   associated with said first particular user indicating that said first particular user has

4   edited said shared document.

1   12.   The method as recited in claim 11, wherein if there is no on-screen symbol

2   associated with said first particular user then the method further comprises the step

3   of:

4   creating an on-screen symbol association with said first particular user.

1   13.   The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of:

2   saving changes made to said original version of said shared document based

3   on changes made to said selected version in a particular file associated with said first

4   particular user.

1   14.   The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising the step of:

2   saving changes made to said original version of said shared document based

3   on changes made to said selected version in a particular file associated with said first

4   particular user.

1   15.   A method for viewing changes to a shared document in one object comprising

2   the steps of:

3   opening said shared document by a first particular user;

4   viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more on-

5   screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said original

6   version of said shared document;

7   selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and a

8   second particular user, wherein upon selecting said particular on-screen symbol

9   associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu appears with a

10   list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said first or said

11   second particular user;

12   selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document; and

13   viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared document

14   with a corresponding section of said selected version in one object, wherein said

15   original version of said shared document comprises highlighted changes, wherein said

16   highlighted changes indicate changes made by one of said first and said second

17   particular user with respect to said original version of said shared document in said

18   selected version of said shared document.

1   16.   A method for viewing changes to a shared document in one object comprising

2   the steps of:

3   opening said shared document by a first particular user;

4   viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more on-

5   screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said original

6   version of said shared document;

7   selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and a

8   second particular user, wherein upon selecting said particular on-screen symbol

9   associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu appears with a

10   list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said first or said

11   second particular user;

12   selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document; and

13   viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared document

14   with highlighted words in said original version indicating words that were changed in

15   said original version of said shared document in one object.

1   17.   The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising the step of:

2   selecting said highlighted words to view changes made to said highlighted

3   words in said selected version of said shared document.

1   18.   A computer program product having a computer readable medium having

2   computer program logic recorded thereon for viewing changes to a shared document

3   in one object, comprising:

4   programming operable for opening said shared document by a first particular

5   user;

6   programming operable for viewing an original version of said shared

7   document with one or more on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who

8   have saved changes to said original version of said shared document;

9   programming operable for selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated

10   with one of said first and a second particular user; and

11   programming operable for viewing at least a section of said original version of

12   said shared document with highlighted changes in one object, wherein said

13   highlighted changes indicate changes made by one of said first and said second

14   particular user with respect to said original version of said shared document.

1   19.   The computer program product as recited in claim 18, wherein upon selecting

2   said particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and said second

3   particular user a menu appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared

4   document authored by said first or said second particular user.

1   20.   The computer program product as recited in claim 19 further comprises:

2   programming operable for selecting one of said one or more versions of said

3   shared document.

1   21.   The computer program product as recited in claim 20 further comprises:

2   programming operable for editing said selected version of said shared

3   document.

1   22.   The computer program product as recited in claim 21 further comprises:

2   programming operable for saving changes made to said original version of

3   said shared document based on changes made to said selected version in a particular

4   file associated with said first particular user.

1   23.   A computer program product having a computer readable medium having

2   computer program logic recorded thereon for viewing changes to a shared document

3   in one object, comprising:

4   programming operable for opening said shared document by a first particular

5   user;

6   programming operable for viewing an original version of said shared

7   document with one or more on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who

8   have saved changes to said original version of said shared document;

9   programming operable for selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated

10   with one of said first and a second particular user, wherein upon selecting said

11   particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and said second

12   particular user a menu appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared

13   document authored by said first or said second particular user;

14   programming operable for selecting one of said one or more versions of said

15   shared document; and

16   programming operable for viewing at least a section of said original version of

17   said shared document with a corresponding section of said selected version in one

18   object, wherein said original version of said shared document comprises highlighted

19   changes, wherein said highlighted changes indicate changes made by one of said first

20   and said second particular user with respect to said original version of said shared

21   document in said selected version of said shared document.

1　　24.　　A computer program product having a computer readable medium having

2　　computer program logic recorded thereon for viewing changes to a shared document

3　　in one object, comprising:

4　　　　　　programming operable for opening said shared document by a first particular

5　　user;

6　　　　　　programming operable for viewing an original version of said shared

7　　document with one or more on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who

8　　have saved changes to said original version of said shared document;

9　　　　　　programming operable for selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated

10　　with one of said first and a second particular user, wherein upon selecting said

11　　particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said first and said second

12　　particular user a menu appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared

13　　document authored by said first or said second particular user;

14　　　　　　programming operable for selecting one of said one or more versions of said

15　　shared document; and

16　　　　　　programming operable for viewing at least a section of said original version of

17　　said shared document with highlighted words in said original version indicating

18　　words that were changed in said original version of said shared document in one

19　　object.

1　　25.　　The computer program product as recited in claim 24 further comprises:

2　　　　　　programming operable for selecting said highlighted words to view changes

3　　made to said highlighted words in said selected version of said shared document.

1   26.   A system, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory unit storing a computer program operable for storing a computer

4   program operable for viewing changes to a shared document in one object; and

5   a bus system coupling the processor to the memory, wherein the computer

6   program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

7   opening said shared document by a first particular user;

8   viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more

9   on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said

10   original version of said shared document;

11   selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said

12   first and a second particular user; and

13   viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared

14   document with highlighted changes in one object, wherein said highlighted changes

15   indicate changes made by one of said first and said second particular user with respect

16   to said original version of said shared document.

1   27.   The system as recited in claim 26, wherein upon selecting said particular on-

2   screen symbol associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu

3   appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said

4   first or said second particular user.

1   28.   The system as recited in claim 27, wherein the computer program is further

2   operable for performing the following programming step:

3   selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document.

1   29.   The system as recited in claim 28, wherein the computer program is further

2   operable for performing the following programming step:

3   editing said selected version of said shared document.

1   30.   The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the computer program is further

2   operable for performing the following programming step:

3   saving changes made to said original version of said shared document based

4   on changes made to said selected version in a particular file associated with said first

5   particular user.

1   31.   A system, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory unit storing a computer program operable for storing a computer

4   program operable for viewing changes to a shared document in one object; and

5   a bus system coupling the processor to the memory, wherein the computer

6   program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

7   opening said shared document by a first particular user;

8   viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more

9   on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said

10   original version of said shared document;

11   selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said

12   first and a second particular user, wherein upon selecting said particular on-screen

13   symbol associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu

14   appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said

15   first or said second particular user;

16   selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document;

17   and

18   viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared

19   document with a corresponding section of said selected version in one object, wherein

20   said original version of said shared document comprises highlighted changes, wherein

21   said highlighted changes indicate changes made by one of said first and said second

22   particular user with respect to said original version of said shared document in said

23   selected version of said shared document.

1   32.   A system, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory unit storing a computer program operable for storing a computer

4 program operable for viewing changes to a shared document in one object; and

5   a bus system coupling the processor to the memory, wherein the computer

6 program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

7   opening said shared document by a first particular user;

8   viewing an original version of said shared document with one or more

9 on-screen symbols indicating one or more users who have saved changes to said

10 original version of said shared document;

11   selecting a particular on-screen symbol associated with one of said

12 first and a second particular user, wherein upon selecting said particular on-screen

13 symbol associated with one of said first and said second particular user a menu

14 appears with a list of one or more versions of said shared document authored by said

15 first or said second particular user;

16   selecting one of said one or more versions of said shared document;

17 and

18   viewing at least a section of said original version of said shared

19 document with highlighted words in said original version indicating words that were

20 changed in said original version of said shared document in one object.

1   33.   The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the computer program is further

2 operable for performing the following programming step:

3   selecting said highlighted words to view changes made to said highlighted

4 words in said selected version of said shared document.

1   34.   A method for displaying a document, wherein said document being accessed

2   and changed by a plurality of users, said method comprising the steps of:

3   assigning an indicator to a particular user of said plurality of users when said

4   particular user made changes to said document; and

5   displaying said document with said indicator.

1   35.   The method as recited in claim 34 further comprising the step of:

2   associating changes made by said particular user with said indicator.

1   36.   The method as recited in claim 35 further comprising the step of:

2   selecting said indicator associated with said particular user, wherein upon

3   selecting said indicator a menu is displayed with a list of one or more versions of said

4   document authored by said particular user.

1   37.   The method as recited in claim 36 further comprising the step of:

2   selecting one of said one or more versions of said document authored by said

3   particular user.

1   38.   The method as recited in claim 37 further comprising the step of:

2   viewing at least a section of an original version of said document with a

3   corresponding section of said selected version of said document in one object,

4   wherein said original version of said document comprises highlighted changes,

5   wherein said highlighted changes indicate changes made by said particular user with

6   respect to said original version of said document in said selected version of said

7   document.

1   39.   The method as recited in claim 37 further comprising the step of:

2   viewing at least a section of an original version of said document with

3   highlighted changes in one object, wherein said highlighted changes indicate changes

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4   made by said particular user with respect to said original version of said document in

5   said selected version of said document.